Bumper Maize Crop in Karnataka

2754. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bumper maize crop in Karnataka this year has posed a storage problem in the State; if so, what is the quantum of maize production in the State *vis-a-vis* the storage capacity;

(b) whether the State Government has sought permission for its export; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to tackle the problem of glut in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Excess production of jowar and potato in North Karnataka

2755. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is excess production of jowar and potato in North Karnataka and the farmers are not getting remunerative prices; and

(b) if so, what assistance is provided by the Central Government to the State Government to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The production estimates of agricultural commodities are worked out on State-wise basis and not on region-basis. The production of jowar has increased from 1.64 million tonnes in 1998-99 to 1.85 million tonnes in 1999-2000 in Karnataka. Similarly, the production of potatoes has increased from 4.22 lakh tonnes in 1998-99 to 4.60 lakh tonnes in 1999-2000.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the central designated nodal agency for procurement of coarse cereals (including jowar) and intervenes in the market if the market prices of the Fair Average Quality rule below the minimum support prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government.